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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. In paragraph 5 of its decision 14/CP.1, entitled "Institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations", the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change requested the General Assembly, bearing in mind the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and the large number of States that are parties to the Convention, to finance from the regular budget of the United Nations the conference-servicing costs arising from sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies for the duration of the institutional linkage until the end of 1999. 1/ The request by the Conference for such services was in line with the relevant recommendation of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Framework Convention on Climate Change contained in the report of the Committee on its eleventh session. 2/

2. As indicated in paragraph 40 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/50/716), at the time of the first session of the Conference of the Parties, held at Berlin from 28 March to 2 April 1995, it was estimated that the workload of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies would require full conference-servicing facilities for 6 weeks of meetings in 1996 and 4 weeks in 1997, making a total of 10 weeks for the biennium. The relevant costs were provisionally estimated by the Conference on the basis of information available to its secretariat at that time, at $3.1 million, for 1996 and $2.2 million for 1997. Subsequently, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation of the Convention recommended that the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies meet for 12 weeks in 1996-1997. 3/ In this connection, it should be noted that the

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Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, at its meeting held on 31 October 1995, decided on the 1996 schedule of the meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies, leaving a decision on the detailed use of the six weeks in the 1997 schedule to a later time.

3. The 1996 programme of meetings would amount to a total of 120 meetings of the Conference and its four subsidiary bodies. Should the General Assembly decide to accept the request of the Conference of the Parties contained in its decision 14/CP.1, the Secretary-General would recommend that, at the present stage, only the 1996 programme of meetings of the Convention bodies be included into the 1996-1997 United Nations calendar of meetings and conferences. The schedule of the 1996 programme of meetings is contained in the annex to the present addendum. The meetings would take place in the United Nations premises at Geneva and would be serviced by the United Nations Office at Geneva. A decision with regard to the 1997 programme of meetings of the Convention bodies could be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session based on the programme to be adopted for 1997 by the Conference of the Parties and its Bureau.

4. The costs of conference-servicing of the 1996 programme of meetings for the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies are now estimated at $3,522,200. They have been estimated on a full-cost basis. No permanent conference-servicing capacity within the Secretariat would be available to service these meetings and temporary assistance for meetings would be required.

5. In the absence of any legislative decision on the part of the General Assembly regarding services to be extended to the Convention beyond 31 December 1995, no provision for such services for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies was made under section 26, Administration and management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 4/ at the time of its preparation.

6. Should the General Assembly decide that the conference-servicing costs of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should be met from the regular budget of the Organization, an additional appropriation in the amount $3,522,200 would be required under section 26E, Conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. Such an appropriation would be subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

Notes

1/ FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 14/CP.1.

2/ A/AC.237/91, para. 116.

3/ FCCC/SBI/1995/5, para. 29.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1).

ANNEX

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: meetings in 1996

		Dates	Venue	Estimated number of meetings	Estimated number of participants
1.	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, second session	26 February-8 March	Geneva	12	500
2.	Subsidiary Body for Implementation, second session	26 February-8 March	Geneva	12	500
3.	Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate, third session	27 February-8 March	Geneva	16	500
4.	Ad Hoc Group on Article 13, second session	8-12 July	Geneva	6	500
5.	Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, second session	8-19 July	Geneva	16	2 000
6.	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, third session	9-15 July	Geneva	5	500
7.	Subsidiary Body for Implementation, third session	9-15 July	Geneva	5	500
8.	Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate, fourth session	11-16 July	Geneva	8	500
9.	Subsidiary Body for Implementation, fourth session	14-18 October	Geneva	10	500
10.	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, fourth session	14-18 October	Geneva	10	500
11.	Ad Hoc Group on Article 13, third session	21-23 October	Geneva	6	500
12.	Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate, fifth session	21-25 October	Geneva	14	500